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**REMARKS**

The final Office Action of September 20, 2006 was received and carefully reviewed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the currently pending rejections are requested for the reasons advanced in detail below. Claims 1-32 and 35-42 were pending prior to the instant amendment. By this amendment, claims 1, 2, have been amended, new dependent claims 43-48 have been added. Claims 33-34 have been canceled previously, and claims 3, 6, 9, 17, 20, 23, 26, 29, 32, 35 and 41 have been withdrawn. Accordingly, claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-8, 10-11, 13-16, 18-19, 21-22, 24-25, 27-28, 30-31, 36-40, and 42-48 are pending for consideration, of which claims 1-2 and 36 are independent.

In the present Office Action, (i) claims 1-2, 10-11, 21-22, 24-27, 36-40 and 40 were rejected based on Sasaki et al. (USPA 20010004281), Gyoda (USPA 20020063842) and Ishida (USP 6,476,899), (ii) claims 7 and 8 were rejected based on Sasaki, Gyoda, Ishida, and Nishiguchi et al. (USP 6,226,067), (iii) claims 13-14 were rejected based on Sasaki, Gyoda, Ishida, and Inoue et al. (USPA 20030090609), (iv) claims 15-16 and 18-19 were rejected based on Sasaki, Gyoda, Ishida, Inoue et al. (USPA '609), and Inou et al. (USP 6,639,647), (v) claims 30 and 31 were rejected based on Sasaki, Gyoda, Ishida, and Yokono et al. (USP 4,773,737), (vi) claims 43, 45, and 47 were rejected based on Sasaki, Gyoda, Ishida and Yamada (USPA 20020027636), and (vii) claims 44, 46, and 48 were rejected based on Sasaki, Gyoda, Ishida, and Tamatani (USPA 20010052959). However, Applicants respectfully submit that Sasaki et al., Gyoda, Ishida, Nishiguchi et al., Inoue et al. (USPA '609), Inou et al. (USP '647), Yokono et al., and Yamada (USPA 20020027636), taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest all of the features recited in the pending claims. For example, independent claims 1 and 2, as amended, recite the novel feature of "the plurality of droplets containing the liquid crystal are discharged on the region under reduced pressure," and independent claim 36 recites the novel features of "a filler material including a resin formed between the first seal material and the second seal material."

Specifically, with respect to independent claims 1 and 2, as amended, the feature of "the plurality of droplets containing the liquid crystal are discharged on the region under reduced pressure" patentably distinguishes over Sasaki et al., Gyoda, and Ishida. As described in Applicants' disclosure, "it is preferable to discharge the liquid crystal by ink jet under reduced pressure thereby preventing impurities from being mixed" (see, e.g., page 4, lines 6-7 of Applicants' disclosure). By contrast, Sasaki et al., Gyoda, Ishida, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest the noted feature.

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The present Office Action, at page 6, further asserts that Inoue USPA '609 discloses "liquid crystal layer can be formed under a vacuum atmosphere ..." citing paragraph [0112] of Inoue USPA '609. However, Inoue USPA '609 merely discloses that an array substrate and an opposing substrate are attached to each other in a vacuum atmosphere having a low degree of vacuum, as described in paragraph [0110]. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Inoue USPA '609 does not disclose that droplets of a liquid crystal are discharged under reduced pressure, but rather discloses that substrates are attached under reduced pressure. Therefore, Sasaki et al., Gyoda, Ishida, and Inoue USPA '609, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest the novel feature of "the plurality of droplets containing the liquid crystal are discharged on the region under reduced pressure," as recited in independent claims 1 and 2, as amended.

With respect to independent claim 36, Applicants' disclosure describes "a filler material including a resin" and "a space between the first and second seal materials be filled with a filler material ... such as a resin" (see, e.g., page 5, lines 17-18 of Applicants' disclosure). Although the present Office Action, at page 4, asserts that Ishida discloses a spacer formed of resin material, Applicants respectfully submit that Ishida merely discloses that the spacers are preferably formed of particles of a hard material, which is not deformed by heat and pressure (see, e.g., column 22, lines 46-47 of Ishida). Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that that Ishida fails to disclose, teach or suggest "a filler material including a resin formed between the first seal material and the second seal material," as required by independent claim 36.

Nishiguchi et al., Inou et al. (USP '647), Yokono et al., and Yamada fail to cure the noted deficiencies in Sasaki et al., Gyoda, Ishida, and Inoue USPA '609. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 2 and 36 are allowable over the applied references, taken alone or in combination. The dependent claims are allowable over the applied references, taken alone or in combination, on their on merits and for at least the reasons as argued above with respect to their independent claim 1.

New independent claims 49 and 50 have added and recite the novel feature that a plurality of droplets containing a liquid crystal are discharged from a plurality of nozzles while moving the plurality of nozzles, and which is not taught or suggested by the applied references, taken alone or in combination.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 2, 36, 49 and 50 are patentably distinguishable over the applied references, taken alone or in combination. The

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dependent claims are allowable over the applied references, taken alone or in combination, on their merits and for at least the reasons as argued above with respect to their independent claims.

The present amendment is submitted in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.116, which after Final Rejection permits entry of amendments placing the claims in better form for consideration on appeal. As the present amendment is believed to overcome outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103, the present amendment places the application in better form for consideration on appeal. It is therefore respectfully requested that 37 C.F.R. §1.116 be liberally construed, and that the present amendment be entered.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If, however, the Examiner deems that any issue remains after considering this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney who will be happy to work with the Examiner in a joint effort to work out a mutually satisfactory solution and so as to expedite the prosecution of the present case.

Respectfully submitted,

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